

FARLEY WILL HEAD BASEBALL EMPIRE

New York Yankees Have Built a Strong 'Farm' System in Minor Leagues

7 TEAMS IN 7 CIRCUITS

Newark and Kansas City Clubs Valued at \$250,000 Each, Others at \$200,000

With the Yankees into the new Farley baseball empire will go a number of fine minor league clubs—all paying propositions or they would not have been retained—which have been acquired in the last ten or twelve years, or ever since Edward Barrow, general manager of the Ruppert-owned Yanks, convinced the late owner that it would cost less and give more satisfaction to raise the young players of the great organization instead of buying them already developed.

There are seven teams in seven prospering leagues under the Yankee banner—Newark in the International League, Kansas City in the American Association, Norfolk in the Piedmont League, Binghamton in the Eastern League, Akron in the Middle Atlantic League, Amsterdam in the Canadian-American League, and Butler in the Pennsylvania State Association.

There are varying estimates of the physical valuation of the plants in these cities. Newark and Kansas City, in the Class AA loops, where players receive their final polish before being graduated to the Yankees, rank with some of the less fortunate major league clubs in equipment.

Newark in Ruppert Stadium

For instance, Newark is housed in the Ruppert Stadium, a stand-out baseball park, and the Kansas City club also has the latest in grandstand equipment, another Ruppert Stadium with a seating capacity of 17,746. The Newark minor league palace holds 19,000. Norfolk, Binghamton and Akron all have fine plants, up-to-date as regards their respective circuits, and there is a ten-year lease of the Norfolk plant that goes with players and franchise in the present sale.

Recently baseball men have valued the Newark and Kansas City clubs, franchises and plants, at more than \$250,000 each and three other clubs at \$200,000 each.

However, the value of the players is something that is hard to estimate as regards the general baseball market, for it always has been the policy of the Barrow chain system not to sell stars for cash unless forced to by the rules of baseball, which prevents clubs from holding men over a certain length of time.

The Yankees were forced to sell men like George McQuinn, now first baseman of the Browns; Eddie Miller, shortstop of the Bees, and Buddy Hassett, first baseman of the same club, because they could not be kept any longer. Had it been possible to hold men like these and innumerable pitchers who have been sent to other clubs until they were fully developed, many thousands more might have been realized.

Valuable Second-Base Duet

At the present time on the Kansas City club there is a second-base combination of Rizzuto, shortstop, and Priddy, second baseman, which can be sold to almost any major league club at a tempting price. On all the other clubs of the chain there are young stars who can be converted into cash any time the new owner may decide to change the club's policy and make money by selling without waiting until the time when the youngsters might be ready for graduation to the Yankees—the goal of every player in the organization.

If the Yankee farm system had developed players solely for the market, as the Cardinal chain has done for many seasons, it might have been possible to estimate the value of the 200 or more youngsters now in the different clubs taken over for Colonel Ruppert by Barrow and Weiss, when the idea of buying "on the hoof" was discarded. That idea was urged on Ruppert and his partner, Colonel T. L. Huston, by the late Miller Huggins when he became manager in 1918. Under it the colonels spent not alone the \$125,000 they paid for Babe Ruth—the best "buy" of all time, it is admitted—but close to a million more before they got their three-time pennant winners of 1921, 1922 and 1923 and 1926, 1927 and 1928.